

From: Susan Trout
Sent: Wednesday, December 29, 2004 7:03 PM
To: NIEHS ICCVAM
Subject: END THE DRAIZE TEST AND OTHER HORRIBLY CRUEL ANIMAL TESTS

Dr. William Stokes, Director
NTP Interagency Center for the Evaluation of Alternative
Toxicological Methods
National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences
PO. Box 12233, MD EC-17
Research Triangle Park, NC 27709

Dear Dr. Stokes:

I am outraged and appalled that the U.S. ICCVAM is attempting to continue the hideous Draize test to validate certain chemicals. I cannot believe that in the 21st century humanity must still torture and kill innocent animals under the guise of "helping" humanity!

While most European countries have accepted the results of alternative tests since the mid 1990s for the purpose of identifying and classifying chemicals that cause severe eye irritation, ICCVAM has taken the incomprehensible position that, regardless of the result of a non-animal test, "confirmatory" testing should be carried out on animals. According to ICCVAM, even chemicals that exhibit corrosive or severely irritating properties in vitro should still be dripped or smeared into rabbits' eyes "just to be sure." I cannot believe what I am reading. Are these the words of mad scientists run amok?

We cannot claim to be a "civilized" nation if we continue to permit such inhumane treatment of sentient beings. We simply must find another way to test chemicals without harming animals. How can our consciences permit us to continue these horrific acts? How can researchers force these helpless creatures to endure excruciating pain and suffering just to test a chemical? What kind of mind and heart could watch this happen and not feel one tiny bit of pity, remorse, or revulsion? Are these people without feeling? How long can one do this before his/her conscience is completely seared? I'm sorry, but I strongly feel we have gone down this dark path far, far too long. WE MUST STOP IT...NOW!!!! I DO NOT WANT MY TAX DOLLARS FUNDING THIS MINDLESS CRUELTY!

Mr. Stokes, if mankind can put men on the moon and build telescopes that see into other galaxies, you CAN AND MUST develop alternatives to avoid torturing living beings. Are animals that expendable and "cheap" that we continue to use them up as if they were inanimate objects? I'm quite sure that as William Inge once said... "if the animals could form their own

religion, they would unquestionably depict the Devil in human form".

I am not alone in my concern that these horrible tests on animals be ended. Every day legions of caring, compassionate people are working diligently to bring these kinds of atrocities to the public's attention. We will NOT be silenced. We will not accept the status quo. You people cannot continue to make rules behind closed doors and operate with impunity. The American public can see through the deceit. The lens of exposure will grow closer and sharper. It's not simply a case of "bunnies or children". It is much more complicated than that and animal advocates, activists and just plain thinking, compassionate people are demanding that these instruments and exercises of torture be abolished--permanently. We must find another way. Our very humanity demands that we do so.

Please make sure that my comments are part of the public comment process.

And though I find it completely absurd that I should be writing and expressing my outrage at this proposed rule, that something so heinous could be permitted and condoned in the United States of America, I appreciate the opportunity to voice my disgust!

Very truly yours,

Susan L. Trout
~ a voice for the voiceless ~